

BIDDULPH  
URBAN DISTRICT.



ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health  
for 1915.



Prepared by

JAMES CRAIG, M.B., M.R.C.S.,  
Medical Officer of Health of the District.



In accordance with Instructions from the Local  
Government Board.



BIDDULPH :  
T. WHITEHURST, PRINTER AND STATIONER.



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**To the Chairman and Members of the Biddulph  
Urban District Council—**

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Report for the  
year 1915.

In accordance with the Recommendation  
of the Local Government Board, the Report is  
limited to the Vital Statistics for the year and  
the record of work done.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CRAIG.



## BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT.

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### Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1915.

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Population at Census, 1891, 5,290.

„ „ 1901, 6,247.

„ „ 1911, 7,425.

Estimated (Civil) Population, 1915, 7,773.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water),  $5,057 - 30 = 5,027$ .

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,599.

Average number of Persons per house, 4.86.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District : None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : Union Workhouse, Leek ; North Staffordshire Infirmary ; Congleton Cottage Hospital ; Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at West Heath, Congleton ; Cheddleton Asylum ; Yarnfield, Moxley, and Groundsloew Sanatoria.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the district : None.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 24.57.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 14.15.

Deaths under one year in proportion to 1,000 births, 120.

Each birth or death contributes to the Rate 0.12865.

# Local Government Board Table I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and Previous Years.

Name of District, BIDDULPH (URBAN).

YEAR	Population esti- mated to Middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFER- ABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1910	7397	256	..	35'0	79	..	1	4	25	98	82	11'2
1911	7425	205	..	27'9	93	..	..	9	30	146	102	13'7
1912	7543	226	..	30'0	103	..	1	5	25	110	107	14'2
1913	7660	214	..	27'9	97	..	1	8	29	136	104	13'4
1914	7831	225	226	28'8	94	12'0	1	8	19	84	101	12'9
1915	7773	190	191	24'57	98	12'6	1	13	23	120	110	14.15

Total population at all ages, at Census, 1911, 7,425.

Total families or separate occupiers, at Census, 1911, 1,516.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 5,057.

**Local Government Board Table II.**  
**Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1915.**  
**Name of District, BIDDULPH (URBAN).**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (Parish or Ward of the District.)			TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						West	East	North		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.					65 and upwards.
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ..	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Erysipelas .. .. .	5	11	37	13	1	1	1	1	4	4	8	59
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever (R) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever (C) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	21	..	4	14	..	4	..	2	6	9	6	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	8	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	4	2	2	..
Totals .. .. .	193	..	14	48	30	6	2	3	24	59	17	73

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—

West Heath Sanatorium (Fever Hospital), Congleton, Biddulph and Buglawton Joint Hospital Board.  
 Yarnfield, Moxley and Groundslow Sanatoria (Staffordshire Wolverhampton and Dudley Committee).  
 Stanfield Sanatorium (Stoke-on-Trent).  
 Great Baddow and Chilton Hill House, Sudbury (Essex), Royal National Hospital for Consumption, (Bournemouth).



# Local Government Board Table III.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1915, classified by age and cause.

Name of District, BIDDULPH (URBAN).

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All causes { Certified ..	110	23	8	5	5	8	13	26	22	..
{ Uncertified ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. .. .	10	2	2	2	3	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .. .. .	4	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .. .. .	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	11	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..
Bronchitis .. .. .	6	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	11	3	1	1	..	1	1	2	2	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Alcoholism .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	..
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. .. .	6	1	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	..
Suicide .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	28	2	1	1	1	..	4	9	10	..
Diseases Ill-Defined or Unknown .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .. .. .	110	23	8	5	5	8	13	26	22	..
Sub-Entries—included in above figures.										..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..



# Local Government Board Table IV.

## Infant Mortality.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.

Name of District, BIDDULPH (URBAN).

CAUSES OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	{ Certified	23	0	3	0	2	1	6	6	4	5	2	23
	{ Uncertified	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
{ Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
{ Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
{ Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1
{ Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
{ Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
{ Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Injury at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Premature Birth	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	1	3
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	1	..	1	7
{ Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	3	0	2	1	6	6	4	5	2	23

Nett Births registered during the calendar year :

Legitimate 183.

Illegitimate 8.

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of :

Legitimate infants 22.

Illegitimate infants 1.

**Table V.**  
**STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**  
**Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department**  
**during the year 1915, in the Urban District of Biddulph.**

		NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY	
		Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-Houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions .. ..	109	35	35	..	35	..
	Structural Defects .. ..	74	21	21	..	21	..
	Overcrowding .. ..	3	..	3	..	3	..
	Unfit for Habitation .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	1
	Lodging-houses .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Dairies and Milkshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cowsheds .. ..	32	16	16	..	16	..
	Bakehouses .. ..	9	..	..	..	..	..
	Slaughter-houses .. ..	3	Inspected Quarterly.				
	Canal Boats .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies .. ..	41	10	10	..	10	..
	Deposits of Refuse & Manure .. ..	5	5	5	..	5	..
	Water Closets .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Defective Traps .. ..	40	38	38	..	38	..
	No Disconnection .. ..	2	2	2	..	2	..
	Other Faults .. ..	16	16	16	..	16	..
	Water Supply .. ..	13	13	..	..	13	..
	Pigsties .. ..	1	1	1	..	1	..
	Animals improperly kept .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Offensive Trades .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ..		349	157	147	1	160	1
UNWHOLESOME FOOD.							
Number of Seizures .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Condemned by Magistrate .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Prosecutions for exposing for sale .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Convictions ditto ditto .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.							
Samples taken for Analysis .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Number found Adulterated, &c. .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Proceedings taken .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of Convictions .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Samples of Water taken for Analysis .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.							
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	3
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	All
Schools ditto ditto .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	2
Prosecutions for not notifying Existence of Infectious Disease .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Convictions ditto ditto .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Prosecutions for exposure of Infected Persons or things .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..
Convictions ditto ditto .. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..

March, 1916.

S. GIBSON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

## HOUSING.

### Under Article V. Housing Regulations, 1910.

Number of houses inspected..	..	..	..	..	161
„ unfit for habitation	..	..	..	..	2
„ representations to Authority	..	..	..	..	16
„ closing orders made	..	..	..	..	2
„ houses remedied without closing orders				..	150
„ put in fit state after closing orders	..	..	..	..	2

## A.—NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

### Natural Conditions.

Appended is the Rainfall Record for 1915 at Biddulph Grange. For this I am indebted to Mr. Higgs, head gardener to Robert Heath, Esq., Chairman of the Council.

#### Record of Rainfall at Biddulph Gardens.

	1911.		1912.		1913.		1914.		1915.
	Inches.		Inches.		Inches.		Inches.		Inches.
January ..	1.43	..	3.36	..	3.38	..	1.86	..	5.20
February ..	2.44	..	1.10	..	1.56	..	2.45	..	3.67
March ..	2.11	..	5.11	..	4.31	..	4.47	..	2.46
April ..	2.27	..	.43	..	4.42	..	1.27	..	1.55
May ..	1.06	..	2.35	..	2.60	..	2.97	..	1.58
June ..	3.21	..	4.63	..	2.47	..	2.17	..	1.26
July ..	.73	..	4.33	..	1.86	..	6.10	..	5.94
August ..	2.72	..	6.19	..	2.26	..	3.73	..	3.58
September	2.63	..	2.18	..	1.53	..	2.11	..	.79
October ..	2.92	..	3.56	..	2.45	..	1.71	..	1.48
November	3.24	..	3.14	..	2.63	..	4.07	..	2.52
December	5.90	..	3.56	..	2.42	..	6.42	..	5.79
Totals ..	30.66	..	39.94	..	31.89	..	39.33	..	35.82
	Days.		Days.		Days.		Days.		Days.
Rain fell on	147	..	232	..	226	..	221	..	204

### Social Conditions.

The absence of some 260 men in the Army led to less social disorganisation than was anticipated. The War Office allowances to wives, children, and dependents, supplemented by the voluntary efforts of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Families Association, and Local Committees, have "filled the breach" remarkably well. In fact, cases are numerous where families are better off financially than they ever have been, which is quite as things ought to be! The regular visitation of soldiers' families by voluntary lady workers has prevented undue hardships when allowances have not come through promptly, while the provision of free medical attendance and of the necessary medicines has proved a blessing in many cases.

The abolition of unemployment—perhaps the most unlooked-for effect of the war—has not been without its good results. The District has been distinctly prosperous, though towards the end of the year, increased earnings began to be swallowed up by the increased cost of commodities.

## B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The additional Bacteria bed, referred to in the 1914 Report, is completed, except as to the Sprinklers. Delivery of these is quite uncertain owing to war conditions.

The dispute between the Council and the Leek Rural District Council, as to the Horton sewage nuisance has not been settled, in spite of a Conference on Biddulph Moor, when matters seemed to have been amicably adjusted.

**Scavenging** has been satisfactorily done during the year by the Council's staff.

**Sanitary Inspection of the District.**—See Table V.

### Schools.

Form 124 E has again proved of great service in cases of Suspected Infectious Illness and Contact Cases. The following are the numbers reported to me during 1915 by the headmasters and headmistresses, each of whom I thank for the care and trouble involved :—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	41
Measles	..	..	..	110
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	16
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	26
				<hr/> 191 <hr/>

Speaking roughly, Whooping Cough was most prevalent in the Spring, Chicken-pox and Scarlet Fever in the Summer, and Measles in the Autumn and Winter. The only satisfactory point in this record is that so very many children have had Whooping Cough before the Measles epidemic broke out, that there can be but few left to develop it after Measles, which is what commonly happens.

These various epidemics affected school attendance very seriously, and led to the closure of various schools at various times, as under :—

Knypersley School (Infants' Department)—

From 7th June until 5th July. Chicken-pox.

Biddulph Central Council School (Infants' Department)—

From 11th June until 12th July. Whooping Cough.

Biddulph Central Council School (Infants' Department)—

From 10th November until 24th December. Measles.



Biddulph Moor Council School (All Departments)—  
From 17th June until 9th July. Scarlet Fever.

Biddulph Moor Council School (Infants' Department)—  
From 29th September until 22nd October. Measles.

Biddulph Moor Council School (Infants' Department)—  
From 25th October until 5th November. Measles.

Biddulph Moor Council School (Infants' Department)—  
From 11th November until 24th November. Measles.

Biddulph Moor Council School (Mixed Department)—  
From 8th October until 5th November. Measles.

Biddulph Moor Council School (Mixed Department)—  
From 11th November until 24th November. Measles.

Biddulph North Council School (All Departments)—  
From 22nd November until 24th December. Measles.

### **Food.**

(a) *Milk*.—The supply has been satisfactory during the year.

(b) *Other Foods*.—Bakehouses, slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were regularly inspected and found in good sanitary condition.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Act*.—Administered by County Authorities.

### **Housing.**

Discussion of the general housing question has perforce been suspended during the year, but a beginning has been made in Station Road towards opening up a communication with Stringer Street. When this is completed it will in itself be a great improvement. It opens up what was formerly a "blind end," and gives an alternative route from Station Road to High Street.

## **C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.**

### **1.—Staff.**

Mr. Gibson, Inspector of Nuisances, has attended to all complaints with his usual promptitude and efficiency. The Council and the District are much indebted to him for many things, and not least for the way he has of getting defects remedied without recourse to legal procedure. He has had a hard year, but the District sanitation has not suffered.



## **2.—Hospital Accommodation.**

During the year 62 cases were sent to the Fever Hospital at West Heath, administered by the Congleton, Biddulph and Buglawton Joint Hospital Board. Of these cases three were Diphtheria and 59 Scarlet Fever. Also 12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were inmates of various Sanatoria, in Staffordshire and Essex, for varying periods.

## **3.—Administration of Adoptive Acts.**

These are elsewhere referred to.

## **4.—Chemical and Bacteriological Work.**

This is done at Birmingham University, chiefly in connection with Diphtheria and Tuberculosis.

# **D.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

## **Diphtheria.**

Only three cases occurred in 1915, one each in June, August and November. They were all in the Brown Lees end of the District, but not residing close to each other. All the cases were removed promptly to West Heath Hospital.

## **Scarlet Fever.**

The epidemic of 1914 was continued over into 1915, and was present practically all the year. The following table shows the cases as they occurred month by month:—

January .. .. .	4	July .. .. .	6
February .. .. .	1	August .. .. .	5
March .. .. .	2	September .. .. .	6
April .. .. .	6	October .. .. .	3
May .. .. .	10	November .. .. .	3
June .. .. .	10	December .. .. .	7

This gives a total of 63 cases. Of these 59 were removed to West Heath. There were two deaths, one infant of 13 months, treated at home, and one girl of 15½, who was admitted to Hospital in July, and died there in December of Acute Nephritis.

The local distribution of the cases was West Ward, 12 ; East Ward, 13 ; and North Ward, 8. I believe that the persistence of the disease is due to very slight cases occurring, which are not observed, or if observed thought to be of no importance, and therefore not brought to medical notice. Sometimes Scarlet Fever is confused with Measles. I had a typical example of this in December, when I was called in to see two well-marked cases of Scarlet Fever, in which the rash had been out three days, but which the parents had taken to be Measles. No wonder that the two remaining members of the family developed the disease in a few days !

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

One case was notified, which I saw at once. The sight of one eye was destroyed, and that of the other nearly so, but there was no acute trouble present. I sent the infant to the North Stafford Infirmary. The opinion given was that it was not a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, but that all the damage had occurred before birth. Nothing much could be done, and the child died at the age of two months from convulsions.

### **Infectious Diseases Not Notifiable.**

*Measles* broke out in a virulent form in the Autumn, and in October, November and December caused 10 deaths. Its spread was extremely rapid in the Biddulph Moor area ; during one week-end it spread over the entire area, and about 12 days afterwards the second outbreak attacked those missed at first. How it affected the children is shown by the table of school closures.

The Compulsory Notification of Measles, to commence with 1916, is a wise thing in itself. It makes the public understand that Measles is looked upon by the authorities as something more serious than it was previously believed to be. The notification will lead to better and more systematic control of cases, and to the prevention, or treatment of the weakness which so often follows in its train. Also it will help towards checking mistakes made by confusing Measles with Scarlet Fever, an example of which I have referred to.

*Whooping Cough* was prevalent in the Spring and early Summer, and caused six deaths from March to June. These six deaths were all under two years of age, and three were under 12 months. The Central Council Infants' School was closed for a month in June and July for Whooping Cough. Even at the end of the year the disease was still in existence but the cases seen were but few in number.

*Chicken-pox* was prevalent in the first half of the year, and caused the closure of Knypersley Infants' School from 7th June to 5th July. I cannot recollect ever seeing a death from Chicken-pox, though I observe it is listed in the Table of Infant Mortality (Table IV.). In the Autumn I was called in to a case which was the "picture" of Smallpox, without any of the symptoms. Not feeling quite secure in my own judgment, as the young woman *looked* more like Smallpox than many of the cases of undoubted Smallpox I saw 21 years ago, I called in Dr. Phillips, who administers the Stoke-on-Trent Fever Hospital. After careful examination he pronounced the case to be Chicken-pox, though he said that "a photograph of the case would be accepted anywhere as being Smallpox." The patient said she never felt ill at all, but it was some weeks before the eruption disappeared.

### **E.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.**

At the beginning of 1916, thirteen cases remained on the Register. Of these one died during the year, a schoolgirl of 13 years. One has developed joint disease and is confined to bed. The majority are working more or less regularly and one has joined the Army.

The Tuberculosis Sub-Dispensary for Biddulph was opened early in the year, most suitable premises having been leased at 1, Tunstall Road. At first it was attended by Dr. A. White, Tuberculosis Officer for North Staffordshire. He joined the R.A.M.C., and it is now looked after by Dr. G. Cogswell.

Naturally the provision of facilities for treatment has discovered many cases, young and old, of Tuberculosis in its various forms. During 1915 the notifications received numbered 32. The ages of those notified ranged from 6 to 67 years. Of these, three died before Midsummer, one acute case only living a little over one month after discovery, a F 21. One F 19, a very chronic case in a deaf mute, also died, and a F 66 ended in somewhat acute form. There was also a death from Tuberculous Meningitis in a young woman of 20. So all the Tuberculous deaths were females.

Of the cases notified 24 were Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and eight other forms of Tuberculosis. Of the lung cases 12 were sent to Sanatoria :—to Varnfield, Moxley and Groundslow in Staffordshire, and to Great Baddow and Chilton Hill House, Sudbury, in Essex. Most of our local first-hand knowledge of Zeppelins comes from those who were sent to Essex ! All of the 12 derived benefit from Sanatorium treatment, and some of the young men come back looking, and expressed themselves as



feeling, "fit for anything." Six cases of "Other Forms of Tuberculosis," chiefly "glands," have derived benefit from Tuberculin treatment.

A young woman of 23, an Insurance patient from Nottingham, was recommended for Sanatorium treatment, whereupon she bolted home, and was lost sight of!

The Sub-Dispensary is established for the benefit of Insurance patients, and of children, but I have made a practice of referring other cases to it, for confirmation, and opinion as to treatment. I thank Dr. White and Dr. Cogswell that their advice has always been most willingly given. There is another advantage in this course of action, that the Tuberculosis Officer gets to know practically all the Tuberculosis cases in the District, which must be to the general public good.

## **F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.**

No other diseases were investigated. A noticeable feature in general practice in 1915, as in 1914, was the prevalence of severe cases of Sciatica in young men. Many years of practice have made me familiar with the general incidence of sickness in Biddulph, and there is no doubt that during the last four or five years "rheumatic" complaints have been much more common, and the fact that I had at one time in 1915 eight young men down with Sciatica has no doubt some connection with this fact. It is possible that the wet July of 1914, repeated in 1915, has some bearing on the matter. A wet winter month does not do so much harm, as we expect bad weather and clothe ourselves accordingly, but a wet month in summer catches us in lighter clothing, and the practice of "letting our clothes dry on us" at this season does not always pay.

## **G.—PREVENTION OF MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.**

During 1915 another resident in Biddulph obtained the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and commenced to practice, thus adding to the staff of trained midwives.

There was no death from Puerperal Fever, but one case died suddenly from Pulmonary Embolism.

I cannot report a good year as regards Infantile Mortality, the deaths numbering 23, and the rate per 1,000 nett births rising to 120. But of these 23 deaths, 10 occurred from "Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth," two from Measles, and three from Whooping Cough. "Congenital Debility," &c., seems to be the largest annual item in the Reports, and figures much as usual, but Measles

and Whooping Cough have just given a sufficiently adverse balance to lower the scale this year. The health visitation has been systematically done ; also successfully, as there is no death from Diarrhœa or Enteritis. Nurse Allsop has continued to visit the Brown Lees and Childerplay section ; Nurse Joyce, succeeded by Nurse Pemberton, the rest of the District. The total number of visits recorded for 1915 is 1917. The work has been well done, but Whooping Cough in the Spring and Measles in the Autumn and Winter have made it impossible to keep up the high standard of last year. Let us hope for better fortune in 1916 !

## H.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The calculations are based on an Estimated Civil Population of 7,773 (as at middle of 1915), this Estimate having been furnished by the Registrar General.

Births registered in the District numbered 190, and one birth outside District has to be added, making the nett number 191. This gives a birth-rate of 24.57. This is a fall of 4.23 below 1914, and 1914 was rather over 2 below the average of the preceding five years. The outside birth was a girl ; those registered in Biddulph numbered : legitimate births, 91 boys and 91 girls ; illegitimate births, 6 boys and 2 girls.

Deaths registered locally numbered 98, and one was a non-resident. But as against this deduction, there must be added no less than 13 deaths occurring outside the District, making the nett number of deaths 110. This is at the rate of 14.15, though the deaths occurring locally give a death-rate of 12.6. The rate in 1914 was 12.9, and the average of the preceding five years was 13.86, so the 1915 death-rate is slightly worse than the previous average.

Of the deaths occurring outside the District, five died in the North Stafford Infirmary ; three in the Workhouse Infirmary, Leek ; two in Cheddleton Asylum, and one each in Manchester Royal Infirmary, Congleton Cottage Hospital, and West Heath Isolation Hospital. Two of these outside deaths were Inquest cases.

Nine Inquests were held during the year. One was on the non-resident above referred to. The other eight were held on residents belonging to Biddulph. The verdicts returned were :— M 26, " Heart Failure following Acute Pneumonia " ; F 2 mos, " Accidental Suffocation " ; M 28, " Accidental Suffocation by Fall of Roof in Pit " ; F 49, " Apoplexy, Natural Causes " ; M 28, " Accidental Fracture of Base of Skull " ; M 69, " Accidentally Knocked Down by Motor Omnibus " ; M 24, " Injuries : struck by prop while at work on railway " ; and F 49, " Exhaustion following Severe Burns."

The deaths include 10 from Measles, two from Scarlet Fever, and six from Whooping Cough, but no deaths from Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Diarrhoea, or Puerperal Fever, rate 2.31. Four died from Phthisis, rate .51, four from Cancer, six from Bronchitis and six from Bright's Disease, 10 from " Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth," while in 1915, deaths from " Organic Heart Disease " number 11, and equal the number of deaths from " Pneumonia."

Only one illegitimate infant died, aged 19 days, the cause being Premature Birth.

Details as to Causes and Ages at Death will be found in Table III.

